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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 13, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Secretary Napolitano and Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) explore the potential benefits for the American public of including radio tuners in mobile telephone handsets. Many of my colleagues urged the DHS and the FCC to support this in a 2009 letter.

More than 239 million Americans daily count on local radio to provide news and information. The radio Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a proven, reliable warning service and radio has long served as a critical lifeline for information during times of emergency. Recent national and international disasters have shown, when mobile networks become clogged, over-the-air broadcasts are still available. For the benefit of the American public, radio-enabled mobile phones should be a critical component of any next-generation wireless alerting solution. In fact, a recent nationwide survey found that 73 percent of Americans said having a radio-capable mobile phone would be "important" during an emergency.

Globally, it is expected that roughly 700 million radio-capable mobile phones will be on the market by the end of this year, or approximately 45 percent of all active mobile phones. But in the U.S., penetration of radio-enabled mobile phones substantially lags the global market. There is no excuse for American consumers' access to advanced technology to lag behind that which is available worldwide.

Accordingly, I would encourage both DHS and FCC to consider extending Americans' access to radio emergency information via mobile phone handsets. The American public, public safety officials, the mobile phone and broadcasting industries stand to benefit.

Sincerely,

STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress

Cc: FCC Commissioners

23 JUN 2011 RCUD



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role of FM-based technologies in issuing emergency alerts and warnings, particularly the inclusion of FM radio tuners in mobile telephone handsets. As you observed, Congressman Walden and several other Members of Congress raised this issue in their September 8, 2009 letter and I welcomed their suggestion to look into FM-based technologies as part of the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) – now known as the Personal Localized Alerting Network (PLAN). The CMAS, or PLAN, allows participating wireless carriers to provide customers with emergency alerts and warnings via cell phones and other mobile devices.

A number of broadcast industry organizations and other stakeholders supporting FM-based technologies had participated in the Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee (CMSAAC) – established pursuant to the Warning Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act to develop technical aspects for the PLAN. These parties also submitted comments in the Commission's proceeding. After careful consideration of all comments in the record, the Commission released an *Order* on April 9, 2008, adopting technologically neutral rules for the PLAN. While these rules do not require the inclusion of FM radio tuners in wireless handsets, neither do they preclude the inclusion of such technology. This flexibility has allowed wireless handset manufacturers to include FM tuners in a number of handset models available to consumers.

I am pleased that through the hard work of many participating parties, implementation of the PLAN is ahead of the schedule laid out in the Commission's *Order*. Under Commission rules, wireless carriers participating in the PLAN must begin deployment by April 7, 2012. I was honored to join FEMA Administrator Fugate and top executives from AT&T, Sprint, Verizon and T-Mobile in May of this year to announce that these carriers will launch the PLAN in New York City and Washington, D.C., by the end of 2011 – almost four months ahead of schedule.

I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. We will include your letter in the CMAS/PLAN docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski